

Message Text

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53

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FMC-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02

AF-10 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 /112 W

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P 141353 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1157

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IMCO

SUBJECT: IMCO: COUNCIL MEETING

REF: STATE 90574

A. UNDER IMCO CONVENTION PROPOSED AMENDMENTS MUST BE CIRCULATED TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF ASSEMBLY SESSION THAT WILL CONSIDER SUCH PROPOSALS. UK PROPOSAL CIRCULATED MAY 11, THUS JUST MEETING THIS CONDITION WITH RESPECT TO EIGHTH ASSEMBLY WHICH OPENS ON NOVEMBER 12, 1973. IF PROPOSAL DOES NOT GET ON EIGHTH ASSEMBLY AGENDA, IT WILL BE TWO YEARS BEFORE ANOTHER REGULAR ASSEMBLY CAN CONSIDER MATTER. BRITISH FEEL THAT PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH ROLE OF NON- MEMBERS IN AMENDMENT PROCESS IS IN DOUBT MAY DELAY RATIFICATION AND COMING INTO FORCE OF COLREGS AND SAFE CONTAINERS CONVENTIONS. SIMILARLY, PROPOSED EXTENSION CONVENTION AND MARINE POLLUTION CONVENTION MAY BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

B. FYI BRITISH FEEL THAT ASSEMBLY MAY WELL DECIDE THAT ARTICLE 43(B) OF IMCO CONVENTION PROVIDES FOR NON-MEMBER PARTICIPATION AND VOTING IN IMCO ORGANS WHEN CONSIDERING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AGREEMENTS OF WHICH
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IMCO IS DEPOSITARY. IF ASSEMBLY INTERPRETS PROVISION
IN THIS WAY THERE WILL BE NO NEED TO AMEND IMCO CONVEN-
TION. BASICALLY WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO IS BLOCK
FRENCH DRIVE TO SET UP ELABORATE, CUMBERSOME AND EXPEN-
SIVE REVISION COMMISSION SYSTEM OF AMENDING IMCO AGREE-
MENTS, AND AFY REASSURING AS IT SHOWS PRESENT
GOVT READY CRACK DOWN ON EXTREME LEFT WHEN NECESSARY MAIN-
TAIN ORDER AND STABILITY. TOGETHER WITH ARRESTS IN MARCH AND
APRIL OF PSD FOMENTERS OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN COASTAL CITIES
AND TOWNS IN NORTH AND NORTHWEST, THESE DEVELOPMENTS SHOW
THAT GOVT NOW HAS POLITICAL SITUATION AND SECURITY WELL IN
HAND.
MENDENHALL

CONFIDENTIAL
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON05607
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730544/aaaajdzl.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 90574
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980211
Subject: IMCO: COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: ETRN, UK, ETRN, IMCO
To: EB
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005